



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Office on Monday 4th July 2011 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs Alun Davies (Chairman), John Jagger (Vice Chairman), Mrs Rachel Banner, Mrs Doreen Hawkley, Mark Astle, Charles Hotham and Edwin Gumbley.

In attendance: Roger Westbury (executive officer); District Cllr Richard Deeming

Appendices: The following documents will be appended to the signed minutes:

- the Agenda
- an updated report on planning applications
- an updated report from the RFO.
- A report on the 2011 Barnt Green Festival.

32/11 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr Whitehand whose reason for absence as noted in the attendance book was accepted by the Council. Apologies had also been received from County Cllr McDonald and District Cllr Dudley.

33/11 Declarations of Interest

- The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.
- No interests were declared by Parish Council Members.

34/11 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 16th May 2011 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

No Parishioners attended the meeting.

35/11 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had received a request to install planters on the station platforms. He agreed to look into the viability of this with Cllrs Jagger, Hawkley and Banner.

He also asked whether the Newsletter could be distributed by email, and whether it should carry advertising. Cllr Astle agreed to work with the EO to look into this and to include a request in the next Newsletter asking any residents who were happy to receive it by email to forward their details to the EO. In order to carry paid for advertising, the size of the Newsletter would have to be increased – initially to a 6-page gatefold format. The EO was asked to obtain a quotation for this format (since advised as £365 against the current price of £240 per issue)



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36/11 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

District Cllr Deeming informed the meeting that the District planning function was likely to be shared between Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils in future. He advised that developers were currently submitting planning applications in view of the absence of an agreed Core Strategy, and before the Localism Bill became law. BDC had received 3500 objections to its Draft Core Strategy and each of these was being considered. It is hoped that a revised Draft Core Strategy will be prepared by the end of October. There would then be a four week consultation period.

Cllr Deeming confirmed that BDC was trying to get the 750 housing allocation for the Longbridge East site back from Birmingham City Council. If BDC was successful in this, it would reduce the housing need for Bromsgrove from 4000 to 3250 and could preserve the Areas of Development Restraint (ADRs) for several years to come. He confirmed his attendance at the Public Meeting arranged for July 19 to discuss Banner Homes' proposals for the Fiery Hill Road site and was checking with BDC's Legal Department as to what role he could play at that meeting in view of his position as Chairman of the District Council Planning Committee. He indicated that the requirement for forty per cent of the total dwellings on the Fiery Hill Road site to be affordable housing could be flexible. Finally he suggested that the Parish Council attempt to get hold of a copy of Worcestershire County Council's Highways Report for the area.

37/11 Infrastructure Planning & Conservation

In her absence, Cllr Whitehand had forwarded an updated report on applications received and decisions taken by the District Council's Planning Committee, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. The Council noted that the planning application in respect of 41 Sandhills Road had been refused by BDC's Planning Committee. The applicant has six months in which to appeal against this decision. It was agreed that any discussion on this would be held over until Cllr Whitehand's return.

The Parish Council expressed its unanimous opposition to any development on the Fiery Hill Road site. Cllr Jagger advised that he had met with Charles Banner, the barrister who has been giving the Council informal advice on planning matters, and he had suggested that the Parish Council might need to engage a housing consultant in order to oppose any development plans. The Council agreed that this would depend on whether an application for outline planning permission, or full plans was submitted to the District Council. Cllr Hotham suggested that the Council may need to engage a planning solicitor in order to brief barristers and the Council agreed to investigate this. (Since established that the briefing can be done via the Council's planning consultant.)



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The Council noted that a petition requesting the provision of allotments had been received from 21 residents in the Fiery Hill Road area. The Council agreed to forward this request to BDC's Legal Department as the District Council has responsibility for identifying and providing land suitable for allotments.

Highways & Lighting

Nothing to report.

Environment

The EO advised that a contractor had visited Parker's Piece in order to prepare a quotation for the provision of new and replacement benches on the field.

He confirmed that he had asked the Council's footpaths officer to investigate the condition of the newly installed gate at the bottom of the field.

Cllr Banner reported that some of the trees on the railway embankment could constitute a danger and she undertook to obtain a quotation from Neil Hosking for taking out the centre of these. She also agreed to speak to BDHT about the condition of trees on land owned by the Trust.

The Council noted that dog walkers were being very assiduous in clearing up their pets' waste and the Council agreed to include a thank you note to this effect in the next Newsletter.

The EO advised the Council that the three properties on Bittell Road with a right of vehicular access to the field had given their support to the proposal for the erection of a height restriction barrier at the entrance to Parker's Piece and the Council resolved to accept Neil Hosking's quote of £525 to install a 2.2 metre barrier. The Council also agreed to look into the provision of a "bund" behind the hedge next to the entrance gate.

38/11 Community Safety

Village Watch – the Council noted that there had been two burglaries on Blackwell Road in recent weeks and it was agreed that PC Mandy Baldwin should be invited to a future Council meeting to update members on crime prevention and detection measures.

Health & Safety – nothing to report.

Communications – the Council noted that copy for the next Newsletter is now due. Topics to be covered will include the Barnt Green Festival and the burglaries on Blackwell Road. Cllr Astle agreed to forward details of how to access the Council's Twitter site to all members so that they could add their own messages.

39/11 Governance

Finance - The RFO circulated an updated report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Payments were approved.



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The EO advised that one of the Council's bonds was due to mature shortly and the Council agreed not to reinvest this money (£25000) as an interim measure pending details of any likely expenditure on consultants. It was agreed that the possibility of setting up a "Fighting Fund" to contest any development proposals for Fiery Hill Road would be raised at the Public Meeting on July 19th.

Administration

Membership of the Council's working groups was confirmed as follows:

Staffing – Cllrs Davies and Jagger

Planning – Cllrs Whitehand, Hawkley, Gumbley and Banner

Finance – Cllrs Davies, Jagger and Hotham + the EO.

Highways – Cllrs Jagger and Hotham

Youth Group – Cllr Whitehand

Environment – Cllrs Banner and Hawkley

Village Watch – Cllr Banner

Health & Safety – Cllr Gumbley + the EO

Communications & Events – Cllr Astle + the EO. Diane Carr would be asked to join this Group as a co-optee in order to work on the 2013 Festival.

In addition a new Group was established to co-ordinate the Council's work on the Draft Core Strategy/Fiery Hill Road development. This would consist of Cllrs Davies, Jagger, Whitehand, Gumbley, Banner and Hotham + the EO.

The group's meeting with Banner Homes was confirmed for Friday July 8th at 12noon with a pre-meeting at 11am. Andy Williams, the Council's planning consultant, would be invited to attend both this meeting and the Public Meeting on July 19.

Youth Council – nothing to report..

School Governor – nothing to report.

WCALC/NALC – the Council noted that Cllr Hotham and the EO had attended the CALC Area Meeting held on June 1st and that Sue Baxter had been elected as the new chairman. A discussion on the role of the CALC Area Meetings would form part of the agenda for the next meeting on September 7th.

Parish Councils Forum – the Chairman and EO had attended the PCF meeting held on June 21 which had included a session on Code of Conduct training.

The meeting had been attended by Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning for Bromsgrove and Redditch, who advised that a revised Draft Core Strategy would be published towards the end of the year. In response to a question from the EO, she said that the absence of an agreed Core Strategy could not hold up the



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consideration of any planning applications submitted by developers and that these would have to be processed in the normal way and to normal timescales. She advised that Mike Dunphy would be giving a presentation on the Draft Core Strategy to the District Council and that Parish Councils would be invited to attend.

CPRE- nothing to report.

Events – the Council received a report from Diane Carr on the 2011 Barnt Green Festival, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. The Council expressed its thanks to Diane for all of her hard work which had made the Festival such a success. The Council resolved to donate £1000 to each of the nominated charities

Community Emergency Plan – the EO informed the Council that he had attended a meeting on Emergency Plans and that Parish Councils were being urged to draw up their own Community Plan. It was agreed that Cllr Gumbley and the EO would work together to draft a Plan for Barnt Green based on the County Council's template.

- 40/11 Urgent Decisions** – none taken since last meeting
- 41/11 Correspondence Received** – no correspondence which was not covered by the agenda had been received during the month.
- 42/11 Future Agenda Items** – training for new councillors (to include Power of Well Being); speed of traffic on Bittell Road (Cllrs Astle, Jagger and Hotham to discuss); screeching noise on the railway line
- 43/11 Date and Venue of Next Meeting** – Monday 1st August 2011 at 7.00pm at the Parish Office was agreed. Dates for all meetings through to the end of the year would be confirmed at this meeting when a date would also be fixed for the Volunteers' Thank You Party.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.

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Chairman

August 1st, 2011